IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A method in a data processing system, comprising: rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and orientation information from a server that indicates where in the three-dimensional environment the second participant wishes to present the shared data; and

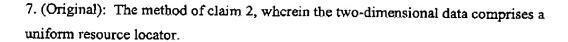
displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered threedimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the orientation information.

- 2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the shared data includes two-dimensional data.
- 3. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the virtual representation is a surface texture image.
- 4. (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the three-dimensional environment includes at least one three-dimensional object and the step of displaying a virtual representation comprises:

applying the surface texture image to the three-dimensional object.

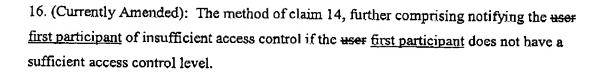
- 5. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the orientation information identifies the three-dimensional object.
- 6. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the two-dimensional data comprises one of a word processing document, a spreadsheet document, and a presentation document.

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- 8. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising executing an external application to decode the shared data to form the virtual representation of the shared data.
- 9. (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the external application is a plug-in application.
- 10. (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the shared data includes a wrapper application and the step of executing an external application comprises executing the wrapper application.
- 11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising: performing a modification to the shared data; generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and sending the shared data update event to the server at least one other participant.
- 12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the shared data includes access control information indicating an access control level for a-user the first participant.
- 13. (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein the access control level is one of ownership, authorship, viewership, monitorship, and blind.
- 14. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 12, further comprising: receiving a request to modify the shared data; and determining whether the user first participant has a sufficient access control level.
- 15. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14, further comprising modifying the shared data if the user first participant has a sufficient access control level.

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17. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data;
modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form
modified data; and

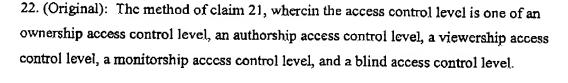
displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the <u>rendered</u> threedimensional environment.

- 18. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the shared data is three-dimensional data.
- 19. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the virtual representation is a three-dimensional object.
- 20. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the orientation information identifies a location and orientation for the virtual representation in the three-dimensional environment.
- 21. (Currently Amended): A method in a data processing system, comprising:
 rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a
 first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data including includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and access control information indicating an access control level for a user-from a server the first participant; and

displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the <u>rendered</u> threedimensional environment <u>on the client computer associated with the first participant</u> based on the access control level of the <u>user first participant</u>.

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- 23. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 21, further comprising:

 receiving a request to modify the shared data; and

 determining whether the user first participant has a sufficient access control level

 based on the access control information.
- 24. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 23, further comprising modifying the shared data if the user first participant has a sufficient access control level.
- 25. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 24, further comprising: generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and sending the shared data update event to the server at least one other participant.
- 26. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 23, further comprising notifying the user first participant of insufficient access control if the user first participant does not have a sufficient access control level.
- 27. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 21, further comprising: receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data; modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form modified data; and

displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the <u>rendered</u> threedimensional environment based on the access control level of the <u>user first participant</u>.

28. (Currently Amended): A method in a data processing system, comprising:

presenting a graphical user interface on a client computer associated with a first participant;

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rendering a three-dimensional environment from the perspective of [[a]] the first participant in the graphical user interface to form a rendered three-dimensional environment, the three-dimensional environment including an avatar representing a second participant;

receiving a selection of the avatar from the first participant in the graphical user interface;

receiving a selection, in the graphical user interface, of a file to be transferred from the client computer associated with the first participant; and transferring the file to a client computer associated with the second participant.

29. (Original): The method of claim 28, further comprising: sending a transfer request to the second participant; receiving an acceptance from the second participant; wherein the step of transferring the file to a client computer is performed in response to receiving the acceptance.

30. (Currently Amended): An apparatus, comprising:

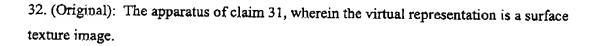
rendering means for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receipt means for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and orientation information from a server that indicates where in the three-dimensional environment the second participant wishes to present the shared data; and

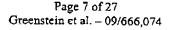
display means for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the orientation information.

31. (Original): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the shared data includes twodimensional data.

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- 33. (Original): The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the three-dimensional environment includes at least one three-dimensional object and the display means comprises: means for applying the surface texture image to the three-dimensional object.
- 34. (Original): The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the orientation information identifies the three-dimensional object.
- 35. (Original): The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising execution means for executing an external application to decode the shared data to form the virtual representation of the shared data.
- 36. (Original): The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the external application is a plug-in application.
- 37. (Original): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the shared data includes a wrapper application and the execution means comprises means for executing the wrapper application.
- 38. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising: means for performing a modification to the shared data; means for generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and means for sending the shared data update event to the server at least one other participant.
- 39. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising: means for receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data;



means for modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form modified data; and

means for displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the rendered three-dimensional environment.

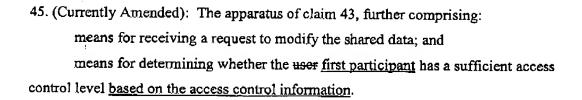
- 40. (Original): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the shared data is three-dimensional data.
- 41. (Original): The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the virtual representation is a threedimensional object.
- 42. (Original): The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the orientation information identifies a location and orientation for the virtual representation in the three-dimensional environment.
- 43. (Currently Amended): An apparatus, comprising:

rendering means for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receipt means for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and access control information indicating an access control level for a user from a server the first participant; and

display means for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the access control level of the user first participant.

44. (Original): The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the access control level is one of an ownership access control level, an authorship access control level, a viewership access control level, a monitorship access control level, and a blind access control level.



- 46. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising means for modifying the shared data if the user first participant has a sufficient access control level.
- 47. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:

 means for generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and
 means for sending the shared data update event to the server at least one other
 participant.
- 48. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising means for notifying the user <u>first participant</u> of insufficient access control if the user <u>first participant</u> does not have a sufficient access control level.
- 49. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 43, further comprising: means for receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data;

means for modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form modified data; and

means for displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the rendered three-dimensional environment based on the access control level of the user first participant.

50. (Currently Amended): An apparatus, comprising:

presentation means for presenting a graphical user interface on a client computer associated with a first participant;

rendering means for rendering a three-dimensional environment from the perspective of [[a]] the first participant in the graphical user interface to form a rendered

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three-dimensional environment, the three-dimensional environment including an avatar representing a second participant;

first receipt means for receiving a selection of the avatar from the first participant in the graphical user interface;

second receipt means for receiving a selection, in the graphical user interface, of a file to be transferred from the client computer associated with the first participant; and transfer means for transferring the file to a client computer associated with the second participant.

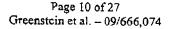
- 51. (Original): The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising: means for sending a transfer request to the second participant; means for receiving an acceptance from the second participant; wherein the transfer means transfers the file to the client computer in response to the means for receiving the acceptance.
- 52. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

instructions for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and orientation information from a server that indicates where in the three-dimensional environment the second participant wishes to present the shared data; and

instructions for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the orientation information.

53. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, comprising:



instructions for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

instructions for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data including includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and access control information indicating an access control level for a user-from a server the first participant; and

instructions for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the access control level of the user first participant.

54. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions for presenting a graphical user interface on a client computer associated with a first participant;

instructions for rendering a three-dimensional environment from the perspective of [[a]] the first participant in the graphical user interface to form a rendered three-dimensional environment, the three-dimensional environment including an avatar representing a second participant;

instructions for receiving a selection of the avatar from the first participant in the graphical user interface;

instructions for receiving a selection, in the graphical user interface, of a file to be transferred from the client computer associated with the first participant; and

instructions for transferring the file to a client computer associated with the second participant.

